GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TEXTILES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1785
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2012
HANDLOOM CLUSTERS SCHEME
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Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of handloom clusters functioning in the country along with the benefits extended to the weavers in the country;

(b) whether the Government has received any complaints/irregularities in schemes meant for welfare of weavers in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof during each of the last three years and the current year and action taken by the Government on these complaints;

(d) the details of training centres set up/to be set up by the Government for welfare of weavers in the country, State-wise;

(e) whether the Government has provided raw material to handloom/weavers in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(f) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to handloom sector/weavers in the country for marketing of their products in the international market;

(g) whether the Government proposes to construct houses for weavers community in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(h) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to provide priority sector loans for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe weavers and if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SMT. PANABAAKA LAKSHMI)

(a): The Government of India has sanctioned 612 small clusters covering 300-500 handlooms, 20 large clusters covering minimum 5000 handlooms and 06 mega handloom clusters covering more than 25000 handlooms. Under the cluster development programme, financial assistance is provided for skill up-gradation, margin money, purchase of handloom, dobby, jacquard, corpus funds for yarn depot, design development and product diversification, engaging designer, setting up of common facility centre/dye house, publicity and marketing, construction of worksheds.

(b) & (c): No established case of complaints/irregularities has been reported in the Ministry of Textiles under the Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme (Health Insurance Scheme). However, complaints of delay in settlements of claims or non-availability of hospitals etc. are received from time to time. The service provider addresses these complaints directly under intimation to this office.

(d): There are 25 Weavers Service Centres (WSC) working across the country. These centres play an important role in training, skill up-gradation and capacity building of the weavers. State-wise list of WSCs is given at Annexure-I. Three more new WSCs in the States of Jharkhand, Mizoram and Nagaland have been approved in the 12th Five Year Plan. There are five Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology (IIHTS) in central sector at Varanasi, Salem, Guwahati, Jodhpur and Bargarh and four IIHT in the state sector at Champa (Chhattisgarh) Venketagiri (Andhra Pradesh) Gadag (Karnataka) and Kannur (kerala). One more IIHT in central sector in Shantipur, West Bengal is approved in the 12th plan period. IIHTs provide trained and professionally qualified manpower to the handloom and textile industry through diploma course in Handloom and Textile Technology.

(e): The Government of India has been implementing Mill Gate Price Scheme to facilitate regular supply of basic raw material to the handloom weavers. Under the scheme, the Government of India bears the transportation expenses involved in the supply of yarn from mill to godown of the user agencies and also provide depot operating expenses. Further, to provide the subsidized yarn to handloom weavers, the Government has approved 10% price subsidy on hank yarn under Mill Gate Price Scheme w.e.f. 06.01.2012. The yarn supplied during the last 3 years and current year upto 30.11.2013 is given below:-

Year	Yarn supply under MGPS	
	Quantity (lakh kg)	Value (Rs. In crores)
2010-11	1105.96	1195.55
2011-12	967.068	1081.12
2012-13	1070.78	636.39
2013-14	699.42	969.31

(Upto Nov. 2013)

(f): The following financial assistance has been provided in the last three years and the current financial year to the eligible handloom organizations for participation of their member exporters in international fairs and exhibitions for marketing of handloom products:-

S. No.	Year	Financial assistance provided (Rs. in lakh)
1.	2010-11	341.26
2.	2011-12	277.85
3.	2012-13	141.01
4.	2013-14 (April – Nov 2013	341.22

(g): Government of India is not providing financial assistance for construction of houses. However, there is a provision for construction of worksheds under Integrated Handlooms Development Scheme (IHDS) for which financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- for weavers belonging to BPL category and Rs.18,750/- for weavers belonging to APL category is provided.

(h): The Government of India provides concessional loan at 6% interest rate to handloom weavers by providing interest subvention for 3 years subject to maximum 7%, margin money assistance and credit guarantee to loans extended by banks through Credit Guarantee Trust for Micro & Small Enterprises (CGTMSE). The scheme is applicable to all category of weavers, including Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe weavers.